

A monthly newsletter for the citizens of the City of Rockville

# County Approves Town Center Funding

## \$12 Million Keeps Development on Track for Spring Start

Rockville’s Town Center redevelopment is on track for a spring 2004 start after the Montgomery County Council on Dec. 9 approved \$12 million to help fund the project. County Executive Douglas Duncan had requested the funding earlier this fall.

The county money was an important element of the public funding that will be used to develop the 15 acres that will compose the first phase of Town Center. This first phase, which will include the new Rockville Regional Library and a new town square, will cost about \$300 million. More than 60 percent of it will come from private developers.

“There has been a lot of hard work done getting to this stage, and there is a lot of hard work to go before we cut the first ribbon, but this is truly an important day for Rockville’s future,” said Mayor Larry Giammo. “We thank County Executive Duncan and Council President Steve Silverman for their sup-

port and their belief in the importance of a new downtown Rockville. The County Council’s support will keep us on schedule to have the first stages of this project completed by spring 2006.”

Rockville’s Mayor and Council earlier this year reached agreements with residential developer RD Rockville, LLC, and retail developer Federal Realty Investment Trust to build the first phase of Town Center. Those 15 acres, generally called “Rockville Town Square,” are bordered by Beall Avenue on the north; Middle Lane on the south; North Washington Street on the west and Maryland Route 355 on the east. Eventually, from this central start, Town Center redevelopment will expand to a total of about 60 acres.

The new Town Center will include a mix of retail, restaurant, entertainment, residential and office uses. The new Rockville Regional Library, which will be the largest li-



The interim perspective of Rockville Town Square looking toward Maryland Avenue from Market Street. (Design by Streetworks, Courtesy of Federal Realty Investment Trust)

brary in the Montgomery County system, will be an anchor of Town Center. A public town square that fronts the library is included in the design, along with wide sidewalks that will create a pedestrian environment with outdoor cafes. The planned residential projects will include 665-775 total units (350-

400 apartments and 315-375 one- and two-bedroom condominiums). Three public parking garages and one private garage, along with on-street parking, will create extensive parking to support the project.

Information on the draft design guidelines is available from Rockville’s Department

### INSIDE

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Rockville Jaycees

CITY MANAGER MARK PENTZ bids farewell to Rockville—a public reception will be held Jan. 12 ... Details inside. Page 3

BEGINNING THIS MONTH, most Mayor and Council meeting times change to 7 p.m. ... Mayor and Council updates inside. Page 5

of Community Planning and Development Services at City Hall at 240-314-8200. [RR](#)



HOLIDAY SPLENDOR ... A creatively decorated Glenview Mansion hosts Holiday Open Houses on Sundays through December. There is still time to view the final open house on Dec. 28, which features tours by the mansion docents and entertainment by the Washington Harp Society. See the Focus on the Arts Insert for details, or call 240-314-8660.

# Rockville Passes Smoking Ban

## Restaurants, Bars Go Smokeless on Feb. 1

Rockville’s Mayor and Council adopted an ordinance that bans smoking in City restaurants and bars beginning Feb. 1.

The Rockville legislation follows the Montgomery County ban that took effect on Oct. 9, but did not apply to independent jurisdictions such as Rockville. The Feb. 1 start date will give the affected businesses an opportunity to comply.

At their General Session of Oct. 27, the Mayor and Council took the first step toward allowing Montgomery County’s smoking ban in restaurants and bars to apply in Rockville by

introducing smoking policy legislation. In November, the Mayor and Council held a public hearing on the proposal. More than 40 people spoke on the issue, with widely varying opinions.

“Rarely in life, or in public office, does one have the opportunity to do something that makes you extremely proud and has an effect on society,” said Councilmember Susan Hoffmann. “I will make this vote and have something to proudly tell my grandchildren.”

Members of the Mayor and Council generally expressed support of adopting the smok-

ing ban, but Councilmember Bob Dorsey proposed a compromise to have family hours for dining and have later smoking hours for those who choose to be in a smoking environment. Dorsey was the only member of the Council to oppose adoption of the legislation.

The county’s Department of Economic Development will provide assistance to establishments that experience significant effects from the ban, including marketing/consulting assistance. The county will provide employment assistance for affected individuals through Montgomery Works. [RR](#)

## January’s Best of Rockville

### Jan. 3

**National Philharmonic Piano Recital.** Works by Debussy, Chopin, Ravel, Liszt and Wagner. 8 p.m. F. Scott Fitzgerald Theatre. Call for tickets and prices: 240-314-8690.

### Jan. 19

**32nd Annual Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., celebration.** 12 noon. F. Scott Fitzgerald Theatre. Entertainment, annual awards, reception and more. Free. 240-314-8316.



### Jan. 27

**Winter Weather.** Children ages 7-11 will explore the science behind the winter at the Croydon Creek Nature Center (pictured left). 2:15 p.m. On Jan. 29, children ages 3-6 will have their chance at 1 p.m. \$3/\$4. Call to register. 240-314-8770.

MAYOR & COUNCIL  
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An artist's sketch illustrates the East Rockville neighborhood plan.

# East Rockville Plan

The next step in establishing the East Rockville Neighborhood Plan is set as the Mayor and Council will hold a public hearing on Tuesday, Jan. 20, at 7 p.m. in the Mayor and Council Chambers.

The draft plan envisions maintaining the East Rockville neighborhood as a secure and stable community, while allowing for the eventual redevelopment of the Stonestreet Avenue industrial corridor into a mixed-use area that complements the community.

The plan also projects new construction in the Stonestreet corridor to have a “Main Street” character with low-scale buildings fronting on public sidewalks, retail shops on the ground floor and architecture that is derived from the historical styles used in Rockville’s past. The plan identifies the corridor as a future arts and

cultural district, as well as a potential site for a proposed Rockville Science Center.

Most of the issues raised during the Planning Commission’s review were related to the impacts on existing properties and businesses in the Stonestreet Avenue corridor. The draft plan confirms that the existing businesses now located in the corridor should remain, with redevelopment occurring as market forces allow. A new zoning district will be created to allow this type of redevelopment.

The City will undertake an implementation strategy study to determine the details of future zoning changes in the corridor, along with other details about the redevelopment.

For more information contact the City’s Chief of Long Range Planning, Jim Wasilak, at 240-314-8211. [RR](#)



## Focus on CIVITEENS

Rockville has many programs that affect the lives of residents. On a regular basis, “Focus On” will take an introspective look at these programs and detail the impact they have for City residents.

The Civiteens Club of Rockville is more than just a fun outlet to see local attractions, go on an overnight trip and hang out with friends. The club provides teens and young adults who have learning disabilities the chance to develop social and life skills in a caring and friendly environment.

“The club members have a great time,” said Nina Herndon, Teen Program Coordinator for the City of Rockville. “But more importantly, the program is designed for the members to improve their self-esteem, self-confidence and gain a sense of independence.”

The Club, which was established in the mid-1980s, currently has 14 members who work with the three Club staffers: Director Toulia Candanedo, Assistant Director Kim Whitfield and one volunteer, Andrea Rogers.

“I love my job,” Candanedo said. “This program is so important because

it is a transition from high school to the ‘real world.’ It enhances what they have learned in school and at home and helps them to become familiar with their surroundings. The club helps them to work toward their goal of independence.”

Candanedo plans new, fun and safe activities for three sessions the program is held (fall, winter, spring). In addition to multiple classes and activities, Civiteens also have visited the Baltimore Zoo, Port Discovery, the West End Dinner Theater, Six Flags America, the Baltimore Aquarium and more. They also attend dances held by the Montgomery County Recreation Department Therapeutic Recreation division.

One recent addition was the group’s first overnight trip to Ocean City, Md., which could become an annual event.

Registration for the Club is \$45 for residents and \$55 for non-residents per session. Trip costs are extra. For more information and a schedule of this winter’s events, call the Teen Programs Office, (240-314-8634) or e-mail Nina Herndon at [Nherndon@rockvillemd.gov](mailto:Nherndon@rockvillemd.gov).[RR](#)

# City Projects UPDATE

## RECREATION & PARKS

**Ballfield Improvements** • Installation of permanent batting cages at Mark Twain Athletic Park underway

**Dawson Farm Park** • Reconstruction of granary in historically sensitive manner and to serve as a park shelter/gazebo and artwork under construction • Wooden bridge renovation spring

**Dog Park** • The Rockville Dog Owners Group (R-DOG) has developed preliminary recommendations for the location of the dog park • R-DOG presented its findings to the Mayor and Council in the fall. Mayor and Council recommended further review of the King Farm 28-acre park option.

**King Farm Farmstead** • Contracts issued for demolition of deteriorated buildings and sheds • Work in compliance with task force recommendations and adopted plans

**King Farm 28-Acre Park** • Public design meetings scheduled for winter

**Millennium Trail** • Norbeck Road multi-use path from East Gude Drive to Veirs Mill Road in design • Veirs Mill Road to Edmonston Drive currently in design • Construction scheduled for 2004

**Playground Equipment Improvement** • Meeting with neighborhood representatives to begin design process of replacement equipment at Maryvale Park and Elwood Smith Park in winter

**Rockville Senior Center** • Expand dining room and renovate kitchen • Construction to begin this month

**Swim Center** • Sprayground bids received • Work scheduled to begin in spring

**Urban Forest Renewal** • Removal of aging and hazardous trees in Twinbrook and Potomac Woods is ongoing • Replacement plantings will take place in spring

**I-270/Route 28 Bike/Pedestrian Bridge** • Separate bridge parallel to Route 28 on south side across I-270 to connect Hurley Avenue and Nelson Street bikeways • TEA-21 award for \$3,124,421 received from State Highway Administration • Construction scheduled to begin in 2004



Public Works crews install signs on Horners Lane as part of transportation improvements.

## PUBLIC WORKS GENERAL PROJECTS

**Asphalt Maintenance** • The 2003 project is complete with the exception of five streets. That work was postponed to allow Washington Gas to complete gas main replacements. Delayed streets include Cedar Court, Cedar Lane from Grandin Avenue to Marshall Avenue, Dean Drive from Grandin Avenue to Bernard Place, McCaulliffe Drive from Cedar Lane to Patton Place and Patton Place. Resurfacing of those streets scheduled after Washington Gas completes construction • Two additional streets, Mannakee Street from Route 355 to the rear of Montgomery College and Ardennes Avenue, will be milled to a two-inch depth and overlaid in late spring

**Cabin John Parkway Dead End** • Pavement to be removed and area restored following completion of repairs to nearby retaining wall by developer • Restoration expected to be completed in spring

**TRANSPORTATION Bike/Pedestrian Improvements** • Horners Lane improvements are under construction • Route 28 and Great Falls Road planned for summer • Beall Elementary School sidewalk improvements planned for summer • The lighted crosswalk on Twinbrook Parkway to provide access to the Twinbrook Recreation Center is complete • The Chapman Avenue lighted crosswalk to be completed by January • Nelson Street crosswalk for access to park planned for fall

**Fallsgrove-Funded Transportation Improvements** • Majority of the projects are complete • Those not complete include Gude Drive and Gaither Road; I-270 and Shady Grove Road (to be started in fall); and I-270, Route 28 and Nelson St. (to be started in fall)

**Hurley Avenue Traffic Calming** • Traffic circle at Feather Rock Place under construction • Intersection modification at Sherbrooke to begin in late spring

**STREAM AND STORM-WATER IMPROVEMENTS Frost Stream Restoration** • 1,600 feet of stream between Wootton High School and Frost Middle School and down to Scott Drive will be restored • Construction planned for summer 2004

**RedGate Golf Course NE Park Stormwater Management Retrofits** • Modify existing SWM facilities and improve 600 feet of stream in Rock Creek drainage area • One pond is on the golf course and the other is next to Gude Drive • Construction planned for summer

**Tower Oaks Marsh** • Marsh on east side of Tower Oaks Boulevard is under construction

**Woottons Mill Stream Improvement** • 4,400 feet of stream restoration is being designed • Stream restoration is from Watts Branch Parkway to Wootton Parkway in Woottons Mill Park • Pedestrian access to be maintained • Construction planned for summer

**Congressional Tower Storm Drain Repair** • Rehabilitation of the 90-inch metal pipe that runs under the Congressional Towers high rise apartment complex parking lot on Jefferson Street • The 40-year old pipe is failing and must be repaired • Most of repair will use “trenchless technology” to reduce cost and avoid extensive excavation within parking lot • The pipe conveys a tributary to the Cabin John Creek • Construction to begin this month and be completed in March

**UTILITIES Sewer Rehabilitation** • Sewer evaluation survey, including flow monitoring and video inspection of underground piping, for the southeastern area of Twinbrook has been completed and the results have been evaluated • Construction planned for summer

**North Horners Lane Utilities Improvement** • Watermain upgrade planned between Southlawn Lane and Westmore Avenue • Stream restoration is included • Construction to begin late in 2004





**City employees (above) clear steps near Glenview Mansion. Residents should be aware of important snow information regarding parking, shoveling and possible closings.**

## Snow Happens!

*What You Need to Know about Snow in the City*

### Snow Emergency Parking Ordinance

Over the summer, the Mayor and Council approved changes to an ordinance regarding parking in the City during a “snow emergency.”

Conditions leading to a “snow emergency” are significant, deep snow. The City Manager may declare a “snow emergency” and will announce the status through local media, via the City’s Web ([www.rockvillemd.gov](http://www.rockvillemd.gov)) and on The Rockville Channel (Cable Channel 11).

The “snow emergency” ordinance states:

- The City Manager may invoke “snow emergency” parking restrictions
- The City may remove or impound cars improperly parked (with a \$100 fine)
- Residents with driveways must park all vehicles there
- Residents without driveways, or who have more vehicles than will fit in the driveway, may park on the even-numbered side of the street only
- In courts or cul-de-sacs, where house numbers are not even on one side of the street and odd on the other, parking is allowed only on the left side of the streets as one enters the cul-de-sac or court
- No parking is allowed in the “bulb” of the cul-de-sac or court
- After the snowfall ends and the odd-numbered side of the street is cleared, vehicles must be moved to the odd-numbered side to allow plows to clear the even-numbered side

For more information, contact the Public Works Department at 240-314-8500.

### Snow Shoveling

Rockville’s Community Enhancement/Code Enforcement Division encourages everyone to assist in keeping the sidewalks clear of snow and ice.

The City’s Snow Ordinance requires that snow must be removed from all sidewalks, steps, driveways, parking spaces and the paved right-of-way sidewalk immediately fronting or abutting a property. This includes access ramps and curb cuts designed for use by people with disabilities.

Snow and ice removal must occur within 24 hours if the snowfall is less than 3 inches and within 48 hours if it surpasses 3 inches. Fines may be imposed if the ordinance is not followed. Call 240-314-8330 for more information.

### Rockville Inclement Weather Updates

The City of Rockville announces inclement weather status through several outlets.

To find out whether a City meeting or recreation program has been cancelled due to the winter weather, always check the City’s Web site ([www.rockvillemd.gov](http://www.rockvillemd.gov)), The Rockville Channel (Cable Channel 11) and the following radio and television stations for Rockville City government closings and delays:

**Radio:** WTOP (1500 AM, 820 AM, 107.7 FM and 103.5 FM); WARW (94.7 FM); WRQX (107.3 FM); WFRE (99.9 FM and 930 AM).

**TV:** WRC-TV (NBC Channel 4); WTTG-Fox TV (Channel 5); WJLA-TV (ABC Channel 7 and NewsChannel 8); and WUSA-TV (CBS Channel 9).

The Rockville Recreation Inclement Weather hotline number is 240-314-5020. [RR](#)

## City Manager Pentz to Leave

W. Mark Pentz, whose tenure as Rockville City Manager included the negotiations and securing of funding that will lead to the creation of the new Rockville Town Center, will be leaving to become city manager of Chandler, Ariz. He starts his new job on Jan. 19.

The City of Rockville will host a public reception for Pentz on Monday, Jan. 12, from 4:30 to 7 p.m. at City Hall. All are invited to attend.

The Chandler City Council, at its meeting on Dec. 15, approved a contract with Pentz, 54, who came to Rockville in June of 1998. A longtime employee in government management, he previously served as city manager in Leavenworth, Kan.

Chandler is a fast-growing suburb of Phoenix with a population of more than 200,000 (about four times the population of Rockville). Pentz will oversee more than 1,500 employees and an annual budget of about \$600 million.

“I am very proud of all that was accomplished in Rockville during my time here,” said Pentz. “When I was hired, there were many issues to address—particularly the question of Town Center. There still are issues to address, but I leave confident that much of

### FAREWELL RECEPTION

Public is invited  
Monday, Jan. 12,  
4:30 to 7 p.m., at City Hall

Rockville’s future direction is set with the plans in motion to redevelop a new downtown.”

Chandler, whose average income statistics make it one of Arizona’s more affluent communities, also is engaged in a downtown redevelopment effort.

“My family and I loved our time in Rockville, and this City will always be important to us,” said Pentz. “We made great friends here—friends that we intend to keep despite the miles that will now be between



**City Manager Mark Pentz**

us. It is hard to leave a place like Rockville, but I think everyone understands that this is an opportunity that is hard to pass up.”

Assistant City Manager Catherine Tuck Parrish will be the acting city manager while the Mayor and Council conduct a national search for a new city manager. [RR](#)

## New Parking Meters in January

The first of 394 new parking meters around Rockville will appear after the start of the new year around the Twinbrook Metro station. Throughout the winter, meters will be installed near areas of Town Center and in the North Stonestreet vicinity.

Two-hour meters will be in effect from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., Monday through Friday, except holidays. Extended 12-hour meters will be in effect from 6 a.m. to 6 p.m. on those same days.

December’s inclement weather delayed the installa-

tion schedule, although it is still hoped some of the Twinbrook area meters will be in operation on Jan. 2. The rates at all meters will be 50 cents per hour. After all of the meters are installed, there will be a one-week grace period in which violators will receive written warnings.

The Twinbrook Metro area has seen many parking spaces occupied all day by commuters looking to avoid paying parking fees adjacent to the station. All of the meters in this area will have 12-hour availability on streets includ-

ing Bouic Avenue, Chapman Avenue (from Halpine Road to Twinbrook Parkway), Halpine Road (from Route 355 to Chapman); and Thompson Avenue (from Route 355 to Chapman and Chapman to the dead end).

The state-of-the-art meters will have the ability to accept coins or pre-paid cards for which regular users can purchase specific monetary values at City Hall.

Keep an eye out for future installation of meters in the City. For more information, call 240-314-8910. [RR](#)

## City Studies Parking District

*Town Center Parking Options Are Being Considered*

There will indeed be plenty of parking in the new Rockville Town Center—more than 1,800 spaces will be created by the three public parking garages and one private garage that will be part of the new downtown development. Just how to pay for all of those spaces, however, will take a bit more creative planning.

The City has proposed creation of a parking district for Town Center. Parking districts, which have been implemented as part of other major development projects in Montgomery County, require property owners within the district to pay a

tax to help fund the parking spaces. Ample parking will encourage people to come to Town Center.

A Nov. 17 public hearing was held by the Mayor and Council concerning the parking district. Some speakers said their properties were included in the parking district area, but that they already had ample parking on their sites. Several said their properties and/or businesses were tentatively included in the parking district plan, but felt they were too far away from the new redevelopment to be affected by the new parking struc-

tures. Other speakers expressed that Town Center, and its parking needs, were the City’s future and all Rockville residents should help pay for the cost in some manner.

The Mayor and Council have asked City staff to address possible alternative proposals or modifications to the original parking district plan. Alternative plans likely will be presented to the Mayor and Council as early as January.

Also under consideration is establishing which hours drivers would be charged for parking (whether nights and weekends would be included) and setting parking rates. [RR](#)



Permits Online

In a continued effort to make government processes more accessible to the public, the City last month launched a new online permit center, which is an easy-to-use tool that provides electronic services and information via the City’s Web site. With “Permits Online” the public can inquire, search and check the status of many permits and licenses by simply

visiting the City’s site at [www.rockvillemd.gov/permits](http://www.rockvillemd.gov/permits). This new initiative is just one of many Web upgrades over the past year. “This is an excellent tool for residents and contractors to track the status of permits and to see what is going on in their neighborhood,” said Rockville’s Director of Information and Technology Mike Cannon.

Permits Online will provide easy access to those seeking information about the status of permits, licenses, plans, applications and many other types of Inspection Services, Planning and Police Administration processes. Property information also will be available via Permits Online. Users only will need the case number or address to conduct a search. Below is a list of the information users may access:

|   |  |   |
|---|--|---|
| <b>PLANNING</b><br>Annexation<br>Appeal/Variance<br>Above ground Utility Waiver Request<br>Comprehensive Planned Development<br>Forestry Permit<br>Historic District<br>Map Amendment<br>Prelim Development Plan<br>Pre/Final Record Plat<br>Planned Residential Unit | Residential Townhouse Development<br>Site Plan Review<br>Special Exception<br>Text Amendment<br>Use Permit Amendment<br>Use Permit | Electrical Permit<br>Electrician License<br>Fire Protection<br>Fire Safety License<br>Gas Fitter’s License<br>Mechanical License<br>Occupancy License<br>Oversize Vehicle<br>Plumber’s License<br>Plumbing Permit<br>Single Family Development<br>Sign Permit<br>Site Plan Review<br>Variance Application |
|   | <b>POLICE ADMINISTRATION</b><br>Animal (Dog) License   |   |
|   | <b>INSPECTION SERVICES</b><br>Building Permit<br>Demolition Permit   |   |



The City has begun installing new countdown pedestrian lights in Town Center locations. More will be installed in other areas soon.

Pedestrian Lights:  
Counting Down

Working to ensure pedestrian safety, the City of Rockville recently took a huge step forward with the installation of new “countdown pedestrian signals” in the Town Center area. The new signals provide pedestrians with an actual countdown – from 14 seconds, down to 0, for example – so they know how much time they have to cross the intersection before the “do not walk” signal appears. The signals have been implemented in Virginia and Washington, D.C., with great success. Rockville is one of the first jurisdictions in Maryland to install the devices. “Our research indicated that

these LED countdown signals are an excellent tool for pedestrians,” said Transportation Engineer Emad Elshafei. “Any new transportation-related technology that can support pedestrian safety is a priority for us.” The first set of countdown pedestrian signals were installed in November at North/South Washington Street and East Montgomery Avenue, and North Washington Street and Middle Lane with positive feedback from the public. Priority locations include Town Center, schools and Metro stations. In all, 40 countdown pedestrian signals will be installed in the coming months. [RR](#)



Rockville’s ‘Good Neighbors’ of 2003 were recognized by the Mayor and Council during an awards ceremony in July.

Rockville Seeking  
‘Good Neighbors’

Many times people contribute to their community without a second thought. They go out of their way to help a neighbor in need, volunteer with a local organization or just pitch in any way they can. And many times these deeds go unnoticed, which is usually how these selfless “Good Neighbors” prefer it to be. For the second straight year, the City of Rockville wants to recognize these individuals. The Department of Neighborhood and Community Services Neighborhood Resources Program is hosting the annual Mayor and Council Good Neighbor Awards Program. Anyone who knows

an adult or youth who has made exceptional contributions to improve the quality of life in their neighborhoods may submit a nomination so these “Good Neighbors” can be recognized by the Mayor and Council. Nominees must meet the following criteria:

- Must be a resident of the City of Rockville
- Must have made a significant contribution from July 2003 to May 2004
- Must have demonstrated their efforts beyond the scope of citizen responsibilities
- Must have demonstrated concern for their neighborhood or quality of life for the City of Rockville

- Must not be employed by the City of Rockville

The Neighborhood Awards Program is the City’s way of thanking the residents who are committed to preserving, maintaining and improving the quality of life in their neighborhoods and our community. “Last year we heard some incredible stories,” said Neighborhood Resources Coordinator Dwayne Jenkins, who is overseeing the awards program. “It’s amazing to see so many people helping people for no reason other than they want to help. There’s no incentive or payment for their good deeds. It’s just the best of human nature, pure and simple.” Last year, the Mayor and Council rewarded 23 “Good Neighbors” with awards in July during a televised ceremony.

To nominate someone for exceptional service during this year’s award period (July 2003 to May 2004), submit the nomination to Dwayne Jenkins, 111 Maryland Ave., Rockville, Md. 20850. Include the following:

- Nominee’s name, address, neighborhood association (if applicable), phone number and e-mail address
- Your name, address, neighborhood association, phone number and e-mail address
- A 300-word (or less) description why your nominee deserves the “Good Neighbor” award

For more information contact Jenkins at 240-314-8343. [RR](#)

**Senior Center Outreach Staff Wants to Know...**

The Rockville Senior Center wants to hear about seniors who may need help during weather-related or other types of emergencies. The outreach staff at the Senior Center is available to assist seniors in need of help during such times. The first step is to call, or to let the Center know of someone from your family or neighborhood who may be in need of assistance. Call Lorraine Schack or Martha McClelland at 240-314-8810.

**City Home Improvement Grants Are Available**

Low- and moderate-income Rockville homeowners can apply for grants and loans to make necessary upgrades to their homes through Rockville’s Home Improvement Program. Eligible improvements include upgrades to electrical, plumbing and home heating systems. Funds for the program are provided by Housing and Urban Development through the U.S. Community Development Block Grant Program and are administered by the City’s Department of Community Planning and Development Services. Call to inquire about eligibility requirements and loan limits at 240-314-8208. [RR](#)

**Subsidios Para Mejoras en el Hogar**

Los dueños de casas en Rockville que perciben ingresos bajos y moderados pueden solicitar subvenciones y préstamos para hacer las mejoras necesarias en sus hogares mediante el Programa de Mejoras del Hogar de la Ciudad de Rockville. Estos subsidios se ofrecen para mejorar los sistemas eléctricos, de calefacción y de plomería del hogar. Los fondos, que provienen del Programa Global de Subvenciones para el Desarrollo de la Comunidad de los Estados Unidos por conducto del Departamento de Vivienda y Desarrollo Urbano, serán administrados por los Servicios de la Planificación y Desarrollo Comunitario de la Ciudad. Para conocer los requisitos para ser elegidos y los límites de los subsidios, se ruega llamar al 240-314-8208. [RR](#)



# INSIDE MAYOR & COUNCIL

*A Glimpse into the City Government at Work*



*The Mayor and Council have seen many of their goals for 2001-03 accomplished and are now working toward adopting goals for their current term.*

## Institutional Parking Plan Is Adopted

Off-street parking that supports churches or other institutional uses that are located in residential neighborhoods will be regulated in Rockville under an ordinance adopted by the Mayor and Council after two years of discussions centered around an East Rockville church and its residential neighbors.

The ordinance adopted at the Dec. 15 general session eliminates off-street parking for places of worship on a different or separate lot. Residents of Lincoln Park became concerned two years ago when the Mount Calvary Baptist Church bought numerous residences in the neighborhood with the intent of demolishing the homes to create empty lots that would supply parking for the church.

The Mayor and Council then set out to draft an all-en-

compassing ordinance that would address that situation and similar situations that could occur around places of worship, or institutions, that were located in residential neighborhoods. Also, through City-supported discussions, Lincoln Park residents and the Mount Calvary church reached an agreement regarding the church's expansion and parking needs.

The ordinance modifies setback requirements for institutions that have parking or loading areas that are adjacent to residences.

"This is an example of how government should work," said Mayor Larry Giammo. "This protects the interests of people who live in neighborhoods, but it does not restrict institutional uses located in neighborhoods who want to be good neighbors." **RR**

**Please Note:**  
**Beginning in January...**  
Most Mayor and Council meetings will start at 7 p.m. or earlier instead of the former 7:30 p.m. time.

## Lincoln Terrace Redevelopment Progress Continues

The plans to redevelop the Lincoln Terrace public housing complex into an owner-occupied community of mixed incomes took another step forward on Dec. 15 as the Mayor and Council unanimously approved a disposition agreement and ground lease between Rockville Housing Enterprises (RHE) and developer Lincoln Terrace MCU, LLC. The latter is an entity of Mid-City Urban of Silver Spring.

RHE, the independent agency that oversees public housing in the City of Rockville, will replace the 45-year-old 65-unit Lincoln Terrace public housing rental property on Moore Drive with 60 new units that will be owned by households of varied incomes. Residents of the current 65 rental units were notified last year that the plans for revitalization of Lincoln Terrace as a homeownership community were underway. Residents were provided with brochures explaining many details about the project and how it would affect them. The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development approved the project in August.

"This is an exciting thing," Ed Duffy, Rockville's Commu-

nity Development Program Manager, told the Mayor and Council. "We have been waiting for this for a long time."

Of the 60 planned units, at least 18 will be set aside for households with incomes that are less than 60 percent of the area median income. Priority will go to current Lincoln Terrace residents and then to residents at other RHE public housing or Housing Choice (formerly known as Section 8) voucher holders under RHE. The plan calls for an additional 22 units for households with incomes between 60 and 80 percent of area median income and another 20 units to be sold at market rates for households with incomes of more than 80 percent of median income.

The revitalization of the Moore Drive property will be rare for projects of this type in that no federal funds will be involved in building the homes. The construction financing will be from private sources, and the sales price of the 20 unrestricted units will be set at market rates to help pay for the low-income units. Demolition of the current complex is scheduled to begin in fall 2004. Construction is scheduled to be completed in December 2006. **RR**



Mayor  
Larry Giammo



Councilmember  
Robert E. (Bob) Dorsey



Councilmember  
John F. Hall, Jr.



Councilmember  
Susan R. Hoffmann



Councilmember  
Anne M. Robbins

## Mayor & Council Drop In

The Mayor and one Councilmember are available to meet with residents on a drop-in basis in the Mayor and Council office at City Hall from 5:30-7 p.m. on Mondays (unless otherwise noted) when there is a General Session or Public Hearing. Call the City Clerk's Office (240-314-8280) as drop-in times are subject to change.

In addition to Mayor Larry Giammo, Councilmembers scheduled for January are:

- **Jan. 12** Anne Robbins
- **Jan. 20 (Tues.)** Bob Dorsey
- **Jan. 26** John Hall, Jr.

## Mayor & Council Meetings

*All General Sessions, Worksessions and Public Hearings are televised on The Rockville Channel, and are available on streaming video at: [www.rockvillemd.gov](http://www.rockvillemd.gov). All meetings are subject to change.*

- **Jan. 12 (Mon.)** General Session, 7 p.m.
- **Jan. 20 (Tues.)** Worksession, 6:30 p.m.; Public Hearing (East Rockville Neighborhood Plan, and Comprehensive Transportation Review-CTR), 7 p.m.
- **Jan. 22 (Thurs.)** Worksession (Mayor and Council Goals), 7 p.m.
- **Jan. 26 (Mon.)** General Session, 7 p.m.

## Boards & Commissions Vacancies

*The City is seeking applicants for appointment to the following:*

- Animal Matters Board (one)
- Commission on Environment (two)
- Cultural Arts Commission (one)
- Human Rights Commission (two)
- Landlord/Tenant (one/tenant)
- Traffic & Transportation (one)

For more information, contact the Office of the City Clerk at 240-314-8280.

**Please note:** The Sister City Corp. is seeking volunteer (non-appointed) members. Interested people should call and leave a message at 240-314-5029.

## A Look Back

*Recent actions taken by the Mayor and Council:*

**Town Center Business Relocation:** At the Dec. 8 general session, Director of Community Planning and Development Services Art Chambers reported to the Mayor and Council that the City continues to make progress in relocating businesses that are in the Federal Realty shopping center on North Washington Street. That center, anchored by Magruder's Grocery Store, will be cleared as part of the new Town Center development. Most recently, arrangements have been made to move Q and L Barbers to new space next to the Regal Cinema on East Montgomery Avenue. Relocation plans now have been finalized

for almost all of the 23 businesses in the center.

## A Look Ahead

*Upcoming issues to be addressed by the Mayor and Council:*

**Mayor and Council 2003-05 Goals:** Many of the Mayor and Council goals established for their 2001-03 term have been accomplished or work is continuing to achieve the desired results. All five incumbents were re-elected in November 2003 and they are working toward goals for their current term. Preliminary discussions in a worksession indicated that completing Phase I of the new Town Center remains the City's top goal. Methods of managing growth for all aspects of Rockville also will be a high pri-

ority. The Mayor and Council want to enhance programs that will improve traffic flow and keep pedestrians safe. In acknowledging that the upcoming budget year will be more difficult than previous years, particularly in regard to gaining state funding, the Mayor and Council emphasized that they will work to maintain the superior City services that residents have come to expect.

### NEXT STEP

- ✓ The Mayor and Council will meet to discuss each member's priorities among the many proposed goals for 2003-05. It is intended for the major goals to be finalized in February and for the strategic plan to be adopted in March.

## City Hall will be closed these days:

Thursday,  
December 25, 2003

Friday,  
December 26, 2003

Thursday,  
January 1, 2004

Monday,  
January 19, 2004



# OUT & ABOUT IN ROCKVILLE

Highlighting City Events and Programs



**Tappers With Attitude Youth Ensemble, a crowd favorite, will perform at Rockville's annual Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., tribute on Monday, Jan. 19, at F. Scott Fitzgerald Theatre.**

## Grand Celebration For MLK on Jan. 19

Throughout the Civil Rights Movement there were many significant events that changed the course of history – and the City of Rockville will honor the 50th Anniversary of one landmark event during the 32nd Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., celebration on Monday, Jan. 19.

In 1954, the Supreme Court decision in Brown vs. Board of Education was handed down, effectively ending segregation throughout schools in the United States, paving the way for civil rights justice and leaders including Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Each year the City honors Dr. King, Jr., with a program that bears his name, and this year's celebration will be held at 12 noon at F. Scott Fitzgerald Theatre.

"As Rockville grows and becomes more diverse," said Michael Berman, Chair of the City's Human Rights Commission, "I can't say enough about events like this that bring folks together and help us refocus on our core values as a community."

Sponsored by the Mayor and Council of Rockville and the Human Rights Commission, the keynote speaker for the event will be Kojo Nnamdi, the award winning host of the "Kojo Nnamdi Show" on WAMU-FM 88.5 and "Evening Exchange" on WHUT-TV.

In addition to Kojo Nnamdi, Alligator recording artists John Cephas and Phil

Wiggins will perform, as will the Tappers with Attitude Youth Ensemble.

The City's cable television station, TRC 11, will present a powerful and historical video tribute to Brown vs. Board of Education.

"This year's celebration is entertaining and educational, especially for our younger citizens who were not born during these key historical events," said Vice Chair Virginia Onley.

An especially prideful part of the celebration are the award presentations of the Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., Youth Award and the F. Michael Taff Award. Last year's winners were Vivian Bass (Taff Award) of the Jewish Foundation of Group Homes and Richard Montgomery High School senior Miryam Oziel (MLK, Jr., Youth Award). Each winner is highly regarded as a leader in community service and a champion of civil rights.

For more information, contact Janet Kelly, the City's coordinator of the event at 240-314-8316. There will be a reception following the ceremony.

The F. Scott Fitzgerald Theatre is located in Rockville's Civic Center Park and is wheelchair accessible. A sign language interpreter will be on hand. Any individual who needs to contact the City's ADA Coordinator may call 240-314-8139, or TTY 240-314-8137. [RR](#)

## Winter Is Alive at Nature Center

Before hibernating for the winter, don't miss the opportunity to see Rockville's wild-life come alive during the season's coldest months.

There is a general misconception that nature is finished once the cold weather ushers in and snow hits the ground. Winter is actually quite busy for many plants and animals during this time.

The City's Croydon Creek Nature Center has multiple programs in January for all ages that explore the fascinating side of winter in the wild.

For example, great horned owls lay their eggs as early as January, with barred owls and screech owls following a few weeks later. Skunk cabbage may peak out of the snow, attracting insects with its odoriferous fragrance. Frogs may begin calling when ice is still on the vernal ponds.

"Winter is such a great time to experience nature," said Croydon Creek Nature Center Supervisor Valerie Oliver.

"The peace, tranquility and opportunities are abundant. The beauty in the cold months is a secret we would like others to discover."

One popular nature sport builds plenty of excitement in winter: birding. Snowy owls usually make an appearance for a few weeks every winter or so. Many types of waterfowl visit local lakes and ponds. Many unusual species that have flown too far south may be spotted in the area.

"You never know what you will see," said Oliver. "The unpredictably is the excitement



**These young bird watchers will have plenty of opportunities to discover nature this winter at the Croydon Creek Nature Center.**

that birdwatchers strive for. That's why we enjoy running a few bird watching programs in winter."

On Jan. 19, Croydon Creek Naturalist Emily Beach will lead the Winter Bird Trip from 7 a.m. to 3 p.m. for adults 18-over. Participants are encouraged to bring binoculars, good walking shoes and lunch.

To prepare for the Winter Bird Trip, those ages 16-over can try the Bird Walk for Beginners, where Croydon Creek Naturalist Jennifer Mazur will teach the basics of birding on Jan. 9, from 7-9 a.m. For the younger bird enthusiasts, the Nature Center offers a bird feeder building activity on Jan. 10 from 11 a.m.-12 noon. Participants ages 4-12 will make a variety of birdfeeders before a short hike to learn more about birding.

More programs follow in February. Naturally, Beach will lead a Winter Beach Walk

on Feb. 14 from 12 noon to 7 p.m. The trip is at an out-of-town beach, where participants will search for treasures left by winter storms, enjoy the peace of the beach on a winter day, and hopefully, spot some wintering birds. A bonfire and s'mores await walkers at the end of the trip.

In all, there are 29 programs offered this winter by the Nature Center. For more information, see the City's Winter Recreation Guide, stop by the Nature Center (852 Avery Road), call 240-314-8770 or visit [www.rockvillemd.gov](http://www.rockvillemd.gov). [RR](#)

### Birding-related programs in January:

- **Jan. 9:** Bird Walk for Beginners, 7 a.m.
- **Jan. 10:** Build a Bird Feeder, 11 a.m.
- **Jan. 19:** Winter Bird Trip, 7 a.m.-3 p.m.

## Senior Center Will Be Closed From Dec. 22 to Jan. 4

### Some Services Will Continue As Facility Receives New Carpeting

It's time to roll out the red carpet at the Senior Center.

Well, maybe not red, but Rockville's premiere meeting place for seniors will receive brand new carpeting in time for the first full week of the new year. With the carpet installation, the center will be closed and inaccessible to the public from Monday, Dec. 22, through Sunday, Jan. 4. The center will reopen for regular hours on Monday, Jan. 5.

Many services and programs will continue during the closing, however. Fitness Club members will be able to use the Twinbrook Community Recreation Center's fitness room. There will be shopping trips for those who

live in senior housing complexes. Boxed meals will be delivered to seniors living alone who are dependent on the daily nutrition program, and the center's outreach staff will continue home visits.

"We will still be available for our members," said Senior Center Supervisor Jill Hall. "Even though the facility will be completely closed during those two weeks, we will be there by telephone and e-mail."


The Senior Center last received new carpeting 10 years ago. The carpet will be of standard industrial grade quality to handle the extreme traffic, wear and tear of the

popular center.

With a base of approximately 1,700 members, the Senior Center is home to multiple programs, services, activities and clubs for Rockville senior adults, 60 years of age and older. Non-resident senior adults also are able to purchase memberships to the center, which is located at 1150 Carnation Dr.

The center's regular operating hours are Monday through Friday, 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. and Saturdays from 8:30 a.m. to 1 p.m.

For more information about the temporary closing, or general information about the center, contact 240-314-8800. [RR](#)



### Rates Through March 15

**Red Gate Golf Course**

Winter Hours: Monday-Friday: 8 a.m.-5 p.m.; Saturday-Sunday: Opens 8:15 a.m./Shotgun start 9 a.m.  
Phone: 240-314-8730  
Web site: [www.rockvillemd.gov/redgate](http://www.rockvillemd.gov/redgate)

|                   |                                  |
|-------------------|----------------------------------|
| 18 Holes          | \$25 Non-Resident; \$22 Resident |
| 9 Holes           | \$15 Non-Resident; \$12 Resident |
| Replay Rate:      | \$12.50                          |
| Twilight Rate:    | \$20 (four hours before sunset)  |
| <b>Cart Rates</b> |                                  |
| 18 holes:         | \$9 per rider                    |
| 9 holes:          | \$7 per rider                    |
| Replay:           | \$5 per rider                    |



In Brief
Community Thanks

"Take Part and Give from the Heart," the motto for the City of Rockville's annual Holiday Drive, was never more apparent than in November when countless community members provided Thanksgiving food to those in need. Referrals received by the City for households in need of assistance increased 20 percent over the preceding year. In response, the City provided 807 food baskets its partners: Mount Calvary Baptist Church, the Basket Brigade, St. Elizabeth Church and IBM. More than 150 volunteers helped to sort, pack and distribute food at a site provided by Manna Food Center. Major food drives were conducted by several Rockville schools, including Richard Montgomery High School, Robert Frost Middle School and Christ Episcopal School. Also, Robert Frost donated \$1,448.50 through its annual Turkey Trot. Donations are still being accepted. Send checks to the Rockville Holiday Drive Fund, City of Rockville Department of Neighborhood and Community Services, 32 Courthouse Sq., Rockville, Md. 20850.

Grants for Non-Profit Agencies
Non-profit agencies providing human services to Rockville residents may apply to receive funds through the City's annual grant application program for this fiscal year, 2005. For fiscal year 2004, the City awarded grants totaling \$356,725 to 23 programs. The instructions and application form for this year's program are available at www.rockvillemd.gov or by calling 240-314-8303. The due date is Jan. 26, 2004. CALL 240-314-8303 FOR INFO

Free Tax Prep Help
The City of Rockville, with members of the Maryland Association of Certified Public Accountants and the Volunteer Income Tax Assistance Program, will provide free income tax preparation assistance for low-to-moderate income residents and senior residents. The service is available by appointment only from 7:30 to 9 p.m., on Tuesdays through April 15 at 32 Courthouse Sq. For information or to make an appointment, call 240-314-8310. Homebound residents also will receive assistance. Seniors should call 301-468-4179. CALL 240-314-8310 FOR INFO

More Than 15 Minutes of Giving
Grant Received to Support Anti-Drinking and Driving Program

A mock DWI accident. Hundreds of high school students observing the accident as it unfolds. Realistic emergency response. Tears. Hugs. Emotions. Each spring, the City of Rockville's Police Department co-sponsors the powerful "Every 15 Minutes" program to raise awareness about the dangers of drinking and driving. The program, which culminates with a staged, but realistic accident scene involving student actors, is purposely planned during the height of prom season to plant the accident images in the teens' minds since many may begin to face possible life-or-death decisions to ride with drunken drivers, or even drive themselves after drinking. Diane Wilkins, the City's Victim Advocate, has coordinated the event for the past two years with the help of many volunteer students, parents, school officials and community activists. One volunteer in particular has been extensively dedicated to the program since it started in Rockville in 1998. As an Allstate Insurance agent, Rockville's Ron Brotman understands the effects of drinking and driving.



Pictured from left to right are Rockville's Victim Advocate Diane Wilkins, Allstate's Ron Brotman and Rockville Chief of Police Terry Treschuk. Brotman awarded the City a grant toward the Every 15 Minutes program that is set to take place this spring. By personally donating time, educational resources, money and securing funds from the Allstate Foundation, Brotman hopes to impact teen drivers before they even face a life-or-death choice. "Ron is there every step of the way," Wilkins said. "From attending planning meetings, to serving on the Task Force, to providing resource information to parents and students, to just being there on the big day, Ron is there." This year, Brotman continued his financial commitment to the program by donating a \$1,500 grant personally, and securing an additional \$500 from Allstate. The Every 15 Minutes Program will be held at Richard Montgomery High School this year. Look for updates in Rockville Reports, or contact Wilkins for more information: 240-314-8917. RR

- CITY
17 Off-leash dog testing. Tests to see if City dogs can be walked without using a leash. Call to register as date is subject to change. Middle Lane Parking Lot. 240-314-8930.
19 Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., Day Celebration. 12 noon. F. Scott Fitzgerald Theatre. 240-314-8316.
- ARTS
3 National Philharmonic Piano Recital. F. Scott Fitzgerald Theatre. 8 p.m. Tickets: \$23, \$17, \$11. 301-762-8580.
8,9,10,16,17,18,23,24 Rockville Little Theatre, "The Snow Ball." F. Scott Fitzgerald Theatre. 8 p.m., except Jan. 18 at 2 p.m. \$12. 301-340-1417.
16,17,18 Musical Theater Center, "Bye Bye Birdie." Montgomery College in Rockville. Times vary. 301-251-5766.
25 Rockville Concert Band. F. Scott Fitzgerald Theatre. 3 p.m. Free. 240-314-8681.
30,31 National Philharmonic Chamber Orchestra Series. F. Scott Fitzgerald Theatre. 8 p.m. Tickets: \$39, \$29, \$19. 301-762-8580.
4-27 Glenview Mansion Art Gallery: Brenda Townsend, raku ceramics; Carolyn Brookhart, print collages; Ellen X. Silverberg, photo-graphy. Opening reception: 1-4 p.m. Sunday, Jan. 4. 240-314-8682.
4 Glenview Mansion Sunday Afternoon Concert Series. Dave Mosick Trio (jazz). 2 p.m. Free. No tickets required. 240-314-8682.
9 Deadline for Glenview Mansion Art Gallery's Call for Entries 2005 exhibits. 240-314-8682.

january calendar of events
RES = Residents • NR = Non Residents • MEM = Member • NM = Non Member
25-Feb.14 Inspired by Words Juried Members Show. Rockville Arts Place. Opening reception is Jan. 25, 3-5 p.m. 301-309-6900.
NATURE CENTER
All programs at the Croydon Creek Nature Center, 852 Avery Road, Rockville Civic Center Park, unless noted. Registration required. 240-314-8770.
2 Wee Little Snowman. 10 a.m. Ages 3-over. \$3 RES/\$4 NR.
2 Snowflake Boxes. 2 p.m. Ages 4-over. \$5 RES/\$6 NR.
3 Stump the Naturalist: Skulls. Ever see a skull in the woods that you can't identify? Stump the City's Naturalist. 1 p.m. All ages. Free.
6 Possum Magic - Australia Day. Explore pouched mammals from "Down Under." 10 a.m. Ages 3-6; 4 p.m. Ages 6-10. \$4 RES/\$5 NR.
9 Bird Walk for Beginners. Sample bird-friendly coffee while learning how to identify birds. Bring binoculars. 7 a.m. Ages 16-over. \$2 RES/\$3 NR.
10 Build a Bird Feeder. Make bird feeders, then hike to learn which birds stick around through winter. 11 a.m. Ages 4-12. \$4 RES/\$5 NR.
14 Roar and More (Tiny Tot Walk and Tyke Hike). Learn noises of nature through a story and hike. 10:30 a.m. Ages 1 1/2-2. 1 p.m. Ages 3-5. \$2 RES/\$3 NR.
19 Winter Bird Trip. Bring binoculars and lunch. 7 a.m.-3 p.m. Ages 18-over. \$10 RES/\$12 NR.
23 Shake, Rattle and Roll - Rattlesnakes. Meet live snakes and learn how to tell a venomous from a non-venomous snake. 7 p.m. Ages 5-over. \$3 RES/\$4 NR.
27 Skunk Cabbage Hike. Find the first wildflower of the New Year. 1 p.m. Ages 6-over. \$2 RES/\$3 NR.
27,29 Winter Weather. Investigative work and science experiments. 2:15 p.m. on Jan. 27 for ages 7-11; 1 p.m. on Jan. 29 for ages 3-6. \$3 RES/\$4 NR.
SENIORS
All programs at the Rockville Senior Center, 1150 Carnation Dr., unless noted. Phone: 240-314-8800.
5,7 Simple Word Processing. Learn to use Notepad and WordPad. 1-3 p.m. Must register. \$6 MEM/\$8 NM.
6-13 Computer Essentials (Tues., Thurs.). A foundation to understand computer terms and uses. 10 a.m. Must register. \$15 MEM/\$19 NM.
6-Feb.12 Intermediate Spanish (Tuesdays and Thursdays). 1-3 p.m. Must register. \$40 MEM/\$45 NM.
8 Weight Management. Review portion control, exercise and other weight management ideas. 10:30 a.m. Free.
13 Mediation. Learn about Rockville's free mediation service. 10:15 a.m. Free.
12-22 Beginners Introduction to Computers (Monday, Tuesday, Thursday). 6-hour course covering using a mouse and beginner word processing. Check for times. Free.
14 Clarify Computer Concepts. A follow up with to Beginners Intro. 10 a.m. Must register. \$6 MEM/\$8 NM.
14-Feb.18 Freedom From Smoking. Seven classes. Emotional and physical support to quit smoking. Educational and motivational with experienced smoking cessation group leader. 1:30 p.m. Registration required. \$30 Payable first day of class.
14 Archaeology II. Munch and Learn Series. Snacks provided while listening to guest speaker. 10:30 a.m. Register by Jan. 4. Free.
14 Birthday and Anniversary Party. Celebrate members' birthdays and anniversaries with cake and entertainment. 1:30 p.m. Free.
15 Skin Cancer. Dermatologist advises on many aspects of skin cancer. 11 a.m. Free.
21 Annual Video New Year's Eve Concert - Classical Musical Appreciation. A Senior Center tradition: the Vienna Philharmonic video. 1 p.m. Register by Jan. 14. Free.
23 Appealing Bells. Learn about the art of English Bell Ringing. 10:30 a.m. Register by Jan. 17. Free.
26 History Lesson: Revisit Lewis & Clark. State Sen. Jennie, and husband, Bill, Forehand discuss their 10,000-mile trip that retraced the Lewis & Clark Expedition. 10:15 a.m. Register by Jan. 16. Free.
27 Prevent Home Accidents. Examine your environment to determine how your home can be safer. 10:15 a.m. Free.
27,28 Woodworking: Introduction. Learn about the nature of wood, selecting materials, making a cut list, marking and measuring and explore power tools. 10 a.m. Register by Jan. 29 \$40 MEM/\$50 NM.

- 30 Beaded Wire Heart Pin. Use copper, gold and silver wire, beads and simple tools. 10:15 a.m. Register by Jan. 23. \$6 MEM/\$8 and \$12 material fee.
- BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS
All meetings at City Hall unless noted otherwise.
10 Board of Appeals. 9:30 a.m.
13 Human Services Advisory Commission. 7:30 p.m. Community Services Office at 32 Courthouse Sq.
14 Planning Commission. 7 p.m.
14 Cultural Arts Commission. 7 p.m.
15 Sister City Corp. 7:30 p.m.
15 Historic District Comm. 7 p.m.
15 Senior Citizens Comm. 10 a.m. Senior Center.
20 Rockville Seniors Inc. 1 p.m. Senior Center Board Room.
21 Rockville Housing Enterprises. 6:30 p.m. Commissioners Board Room, 14 Moore Dr.
22 Recreation and Parks Advisory Board. 7 p.m.
28 Planning Commission. 7 p.m.



Rockville Up Close: ‘Life After’ for the Board of Elections

Residents help shape Rockville through involvement with neighborhood and civic associations and participation on Mayor and Council-appointed Boards and Commissions. On a regular basis, Rockville Up Close will take an in-depth look at these organizations.

Even though the 2003 Rockville Mayor and Council Election went as smoothly as anyone could have hoped, the City’s Board of Supervisors of Elections is already back to work.

With Election 2003 came a multitude of changes in which Chairperson Doris Ecelberger and Board members Linda Aksamit, David Celeste, Margaretta Tutson and Sidney Gottlieb handled virtually flawlessly, but the group is eager to examine the processes for the next election.



The Board of Supervisors of Elections worked for months to ensure a smooth election experience for residents, including these voters at Beall Elementary School.

One significant change during Election 2003 involved new electronic voting machines.

Up until just a couple of weeks before the election, Rockville was unsure if the state would order the use of Diebold’s electronic voting machines. But in October, the Board and the City

Clerk’s Office received word that the new electronic voting machines were approved, and with just a few weeks to prepare, the Board set out to ensure the machines would work well in Rockville.

“They worked great,” Ecelberger said. “We had City IT

representatives to set up the machines, take them down, and they were available in case we needed guidance throughout the day.”

The Board, along with City officials also worked to ensure that all election materials were printed in both English and Spanish in an attempt to reach more voters – another first for the Board.

Another positive change to this year’s election was the polling place switch to the Twinbrook Community Center from Rockcrest, which resulted in a higher voter turnout.

“From what I’ve personally heard, the election was a success,” Ecelberger said. “But now it’s back to work in January. We need to take a look at the election critiques and see how we can improve.” RR

Volunteer Time: Rockville Jaycees

There are infinite ways to share talent, experience, expertise and time with individuals or organizations that could use assistance by volunteering in the City. Each month “Volunteer Time” will highlight a different volunteer opportunity to promote an interest in giving back to the community.

Gathering for camping, wine tasting, biking or learning to cook gourmet food does not seem like much to ask from a group of 21-39 year-old volunteers. But these social activities are just one component of what makes up the Rockville Jaycees.

In addition to some character building and fun activities, the Rockville Jaycees primarily participate in numerous volunteer activities such as holiday drives, back-to-school supply collections and bicycle donations to the Character Counts program for children. A non-profit organization, Rockville Jaycees stresses leadership skills training, individual development, chapter management and overall community involvement.

“Our organization is one with several objectives,” said Andrew Field, the newly elected president of the 2004 Rockville Jaycees. “We provide value to the community through the projects we do ... We develop our members’ leadership abilities by organizing and operating those projects.”

Joining Field on the board are Management Vice President Patty Landolt and Membership Vice President Russell Acosta. Patricia Gallalee served consecutive terms as president in 2002 and 2003 and will serve in an advisory role to Fields as Chairwoman of the Board.

The first membership meeting of 2004 will be Thursday, Jan. 8, at Glenview Mansion in Rockville Civic Center Park at 7:30 p.m., and is open to new members. The membership meetings are generally held on the second Thursday of the month. For more information, visit www.geocities.com/rockvillejaycees. RR

TRC 11 Airs Latest in Diversity Series

The Rockville Channel (cable channel 11) is a national leader in government television programming, as proven by multiple awards it has received over the last several years. From live coverage of Mayor and Council meetings and City elections to regular news programs to in-depth features, residents can be assured they are receiving quality, accurate and timely information from TRC 11.

In January, TRC 11 (and streaming at www.rockvillemd.gov) will air yet another top-notch program with its second installment of the “Diversity in the City” series. The second installment focuses on the Asian community. The first episode, focusing on African Americans in Rockville, aired on TRC in the fall, and the third and final part, focusing on the Latino/Hispanic community,

will air in the future. Each episode is about one hour in length.

“Diversity in the City” is a three-part series exploring the increasing cultural and ethnic diversity of Rockville’s population, the opportunities and challenges this diversity presents to the City and its government, how City government is responding in its programs and services, and how the City government is responding internally. Perhaps most importantly, “Diversity in the City” seeks to impart a better understanding of three of the largest minority populations in Rockville by talking with and profiling people in those populations.

“The staff has spent a great deal of time in researching the series,” said TRC 11 Manager/Executive Producer Doug Breisch. “Dozens of hours of interviews, statistical research and



TRC 11’s Sabrina Rosado-Rodriguez (center) conducted dozens of interviews with Tony Plaia (holding camera) for ‘Diversity in the City.’

on-location video taping have made this series rich in content.”

In addition to Breisch, TRC staff working on this project include Sabrina Rosado-Rodriguez, Tony Plaia and Aaron Dawkins.

TRC 11 has won national awards in a variety of categories, including public meeting coverage, election coverage,

news programming, documentary, interviews, public education, public health, public safety and overall excellence.

Check the TRC 11 program schedule (below) for times of “Diversity in the City,” and other programs or log on to the City’s Web site, www.rockvillemd.gov, and click on the TRC 11 logo. RR

| TRC 11                         | THE ROCKVILLE CHANNEL JANUARY PROGRAMMING SCHEDULE |                             |                            |                           |                            |                             |                            |
|--------------------------------|--|-----------------------------|----------------------------|---------------------------|----------------------------|-----------------------------|----------------------------|
|                                | SUNDAY   | MONDAY                      | TUESDAY                    | WEDNESDAY                 | THURSDAY                   | FRIDAY                      | SATURDAY                   |
| 12 Midnight until meeting ends | Planning Commission ▼                              | Mayor & Council ▼           | Mayor & Council ▼          | Mayor & Council ▼         | Mayor & Council ▼          | Mayor & Council ▼           | Planning Commission ▼      |
| 6 am                           | City Hall Report                                   | City Hall Report            | City Hall Report           | City Hall Report          | City Hall Report           | City Hall Report            | City Hall Report           |
| 6:30 am                        | Cityline   | Cityline                    | Cityline                   | Cityline                  | Cityline                   | Cityline                    | Cityline                   |
| 7 am                           | Caregivers—Adult Homeless                          | Annual Report               | Black History              | Annual Report             | Black History              | Annual Report               | Annual Report              |
| 7:30 am                        | Mayor & Council Review                             | Mayor & Council Review      | Mayor & Council Review     | Mayor & Council Review    | Mayor & Council Review     | Mayor & Council Review      | Mayor & Council Review     |
| 8 am                           | City Hall Report                                   | City Hall Report            | City Hall Report           | City Hall Report          | City Hall Report           | City Hall Report            | City Hall Report           |
| 8:30 am                        | Mayor & Council ▼                                  | Cityline                    | Cityline                   | Cityline                  | Cityline                   | Cityline                    | Mayor & Council ▼          |
| 9 am                           | ▼  | Diversity in the City ▼     | Annual Report              | Diversity in the City ▼   | Preserving the Past        | Black History               | ▼                          |
| 9:30 am                        | ▼  | ▼                           | Black History              | ▼                         | Annual Report              | Annual Report               | ▼                          |
| 10 am                          | ▼  | Annual Report               | Diversity in the City ▼    | Annual Report             | Black History              | Diversity in the City ▼     | ▼                          |
| 10:30 am                       | ▼  | Black History               | ▼                          | Black History             | Diversity in the City ▼    | ▼                           | ▼                          |
| 11 am                          | Cityline   | Caregivers-Adult Homeless   | Exploring Rockville's Past | Caregivers-Adult Homeless | ▼                          | Exploring Rockville's Past  | Cityline                   |
| 11:30 am                       | Mayor & Council Review                             | Mayor & Council Review      | Mayor & Council Review     | Mayor & Council Review    | Mayor & Council Review     | Mayor & Council Review      | Mayor & Council Review     |
| 12 noon                        | City Hall Report                                   | City Hall Report            | City Hall Report           | City Hall Report          | City Hall Report           | City Hall Report            | City Hall Report           |
| 12:30 pm                       | Cityline   | Cityline                    | Cityline                   | Cityline                  | Cityline                   | Cityline                    | Cityline                   |
| 1 pm until meeting ends        | Mayor & Council ▼                                  | Planning Commission ▼       | Mayor & Council ▼          | Mayor & Council ▼         | Planning Commission ▼      | Mayor & Council ▼           | Planning Commission ▼      |
| 4 pm                           | Diversity in the City ▼                            | ▼                           | Diversity in the City ▼    | Black History             | ▼                          | Exploring Rockville's Past  | ▼                          |
| 4:30 pm                        | ▼  | Annual Report               | ▼                          | Annual Report             | Caregivers—Adult Homeless  | Preserving the Past         | Annual Report              |
| 5 pm                           | Annual Report                                      | Diversity in the City ▼     | Black History              | Diversity in the City ▼   | Preserving the Past        | Annual Report               | Diversity in the City ▼    |
| 5:30 pm                        | Caregivers—Adult Homeless                          | ▼                           | Annual Report              | ▼                         | Annual Report              | Black History               | ▼                          |
| 6 pm                           | City Hall Report                                   | City Hall Report            | City Hall Report           | City Hall Report          | City Hall Report           | City Hall Report            | City Hall Report           |
| 6:30 pm                        | Mayor & Council Review                             | Mayor & Council Review      | Mayor & Council Review     | Mayor & Council Review    | Mayor & Council Review     | Mayor & Council Review      | Mayor & Council Review     |
| 7 pm                           | Planning Commission ▼                              | Mayor & Council(New Time) ▼ | Caregivers—Adult Homeless  | Planning Commission ▼     | Exploring Rockville's Past | Mayor & Council(New Time) ▼ | Preserving the Past        |
| 7:30 pm                        | ▼  | ▼                           | Black History              | ▼                         | Diversity in the City ▼    | ▼                           | Annual Report              |
| 8 pm                           | ▼  | ▼                           | Annual Report              | ▼                         | ▼                          | ▼                           | Black History              |
| 8:30 pm                        | ▼  | ▼                           | Diversity in the City ▼    | ▼                         | Annual Report              | ▼                           | Diversity in the City ▼    |
| 9 pm                           | ▼  | ▼                           | ▼                          | ▼                         | Black History              | ▼                           | ▼                          |
| 9:30 pm                        | ▼  | ▼                           | Cityline                   | ▼                         | Cityline                   | ▼                           | Cityline                   |
| 10 pm                          | City Hall Report                                   | City Hall Report            | City Hall Report           | City Hall Report          | City Hall Report           | City Hall Report            | City Hall Report           |
| 10:30 pm                       | Mayor & Council Review                             | Mayor & Council Review      | Mayor & Council Review     | Mayor & Council Review    | Mayor & Council Review     | Mayor & Council Review      | Mayor & Council Review     |
| 11 pm                          | Diversity in the City ▼                            | Annual Report               | Diversity in the City ▼    | Black History             | Annual Report              | Diversity in the City ▼     | Annual Report              |
| 11:30 pm                       | ▼  | Black History               | ▼                          | Annual Report             | Preserving the Past        | ▼                           | Exploring Rockville's Past |

**Mayor**  
LARRY GIAMMO

**Councilmembers**  
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JOHN F. HALL, JR.  
SUSAN R. HOFFMANN  
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**Rockville Reports** is the official publication of the Mayor and Council, published monthly at City Hall, 111 Maryland Ave., Rockville, Md. 20850-2364. It is delivered to all residents of Rockville. Deadline for news is the first day of the preceding month. Phone 240-314-8116.

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